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CD NO.

COUNTRY

Syria/Lebanon/Transjordan

SUBJECT

Syrian and Lebanese Attitude toward

the Greater Syria Plan

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- Fu'ad Bey Hamza, the Saudi-Arabian Minister of State and its representative to the UNESCO conference, is spreading propaganda in Moslem circles against King Abdullah.
- 2. On 5 December he visited the Mufti of Lebanon, accompanied by Muhammad Akkawi, a member of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin. Hamza told the Mufti and Sheikh Muhyi-al-Din Makkawi, Hasan Khoja, and a number of notables who were also present, that, if 'Abdullah attempts to occupy Syria by force with the help of the British, King Ibn Sa'ud will not stand by with folded arms, but will keep his promise of giving help to the Syrian Government.
- 3. Hamza visited Ba'qalin and met frequently with local Druze leaders. One of the most important of these meetings was held at the home of Dr. Amin Hamadah and Sulayman Hamadah.
- 1. From Barqalin Hamza went to the town of 'Abiyya, where he was born, and met with a number of the leaders of the district. He discussed, as he did in the other meetings, the necessity of opposing the Greater Syria project, declaring that it is a threat to Lebanese independence.
- 5. Toward the end of November Sheikh Abu al-Khayr Midani, head of the Tamaddun al-Islami (Moslem Civilization) Association in Damascus, and Sheikh Hasan al-Shatti, head of Rabitat al-Ulema, came to Beirut and met at the home of Muhammad Jamil Bayhum, head of the Federation of Parties Combatting Zionism. Others present at the meeting included Sheikh Muhammad Unsi, Chief of the Shara' court of Appeals; Dr. Muhammad Khalid; Anis Naja, and a number of the Ulema and Moslem notables; they discussed the Greater Syria project. A heated debate developed when Muhammad Jamil Bayhum accused King Abdullah of strengthening the Zionists in Palestine by preventing the Arab states from uniting for a common effort.
- 6. After this debate, the majority of those present, most of whom were religious leaders who were bound by their religion not to oppose or fight the descendants of the Prophet, decided to support the Greater Syria project.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A2g

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as an instrument which will bring Moslems together. This majority stipulated, however, that their support is contingent on the annulment or modification of the Anglo-Transjordan treaty, and on effective British help for the Arabs against the Zionists. They drew up and signed an appeal embodying this decision. The appeal was subsequently signed by a large number of Moslems who were not present at the meeting, and it was sent to 'Abdullah as a basis for negotiation with the British.

7. Sheikhs Midani and Shatti visited the Mufti of Lebanon, Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, and 'Abd-al-Hamid Karamah, leader of the National Liberation Bloc, and these latter two were reported to have approved of the appeal.

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